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and checked against MS

Lucy Hall to Sarah Bracher, 14 November 1866

Oakwood

Nov 14<sup>th</sup> / 66

My dear Sarah

We were so delighted to receive your kind letter for I had begun to think something serious had happened as I know how punctual you generally are. Dear Henry happened to be here & received his letter from you the same time. I am glad you got the [?dear] likeness safe. Dear Sarah we are truly sorry that times are so bad where you are, I do hope they will improve for yourself & dear familys sake. How delighted you must be to have dear Fanny back. I know she will be a great comfort to you all. I should like her to favor me with a few lines, when she can spare me the time. I am happy to say that we are all well & my dear little Kate is quite restored to health again she will be 4 yrs old next March & can sing very correctly 5 or six hymns, my youngest is just 20 months old, & Clarence is getting on nicely with his lessons — I wish I could see you, for I would tell you such lots of news that I quite forget when I sit down to write.

Dear Henry is staying with us a few days — & he tells me that he shant be very long before he is married I think by what he says early this summer. I think Miss Peel will be able to get about 5 or 6000 for her share of the land — so that will be a nice start for them. I have not heard from dear Shake since his removal to Nicol Bay — but hope to do so, when he gets settled again. I am glad to tell you that our cattle run is still paying very well & we have about [?30 ?50] head of cattle of our own now & 6 horses. Ander has taken up a Tillage lease of 100 acres, about 3 miles from this place & we are going to put up a cottage there this summer we are having some bricks burnt, now I will just give you an idea how the house will be, 2 good sized rooms & a passage, [?leantoos] at each end, & a Verandah back & front, so that will be six rooms, so that will be comfortable wont it. My dear Sister you wished to know wether [sic] Mrs Leake is still alive, she is, & looks very well indeed, she is very charitable to poor people & is living in Perth. Poor Hephze & her family have gone to Mrs Smithies again. Tregonning as [sic] gone away from the Colony & nobody knows where. Hannah Smithies is married to

a Wesleyan minister & is gone to one of the Feegee Islands. Mr & Mrs Helmich both look very well indeed & all living in Perth. Mr J Clarkson still lives at the Peninsular, but he is beginning to look rather ancient.

Poor Mr Charles Witternoom [sic] is dead & left a young widow & 5 children & his affairs are all topsy turvy. I suppose you know he married one of Mr S Moores daughters, the youngest, about 12 months before he died & she had one child a boy, old Miss Witternoom is still alive & Miss Nairn too. I have not heard from the Blackwood for some weeks, but we hear they are all coming into Bunbury to the Agricultural Show this month. The Miss Hesters are considered very pretty girls, I have not seen them since they have grown up. We hear nothing from Frank himself & dont know what part of Champion Bay he is living at. I am sending you 2 Papers this time & I received yours safely. My dear Sarah I am sending you a likeness of myself. I dont suppose you will recognise me as having a family does not improve ones appearance, that was taken a few months ago, but everyone says it makes me look too short, when I can get dear Ander to figure on paste board I will send you one of him & the children too when I can manage to get them taken. The Hamblins did not come here, they are still at your side but I dont know where. People are always complaining of bad times here but I think any honest person that likes to work can get employment. Flour is £2 4 per bag & meat 6d & 7d per lb but they seem to think that flour will be much lower soon. We have had a most delightful season. My Parents Sisters & Brothers are all well. Ander joins me in kind love & best wishes to all of you. With love & kisses Believe me

Yours affectionately

Lucy Hall

PS I forgot to tell you that Mrs Bickleys fourth daughter a girl of about 15 yrs is likely to have an increase, to one of Mr J Davie's sons a lad about 16 so Mrs B made him marry her last week is it not a dreadful disgrace, the worst of it is that he is not considered quite *bright* & is only living as servant to Bickley

Yours affectly

L H